

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A razor blade cartridge comprising:
a seat;
a cap mounted on the seat so that the seat and the cap define a space therebetween;
at least one blade having a cutting edge and mounted between the seat and the cap;
and
a spacer coextensive with the at least one blade and mounted between the seat and the at least one blade, the spacer having a plurality of spaced apart fingers extending frontward of the spacer and being operable between an initial position wherein the fingers are retracted rearward of the cutting edge and a plurality of working positions wherein the fingers are displaced toward and beyond the cutting edge for controllably decreasing contact between the cutting edge of the at least one blade and the skin and for removing shaving debris accumulated in the space.
2. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a seat blade mounted between the seat and the spacer and having a cutting edge spaced frontward of the cutting edge of the at least one blade, a plane tangent to the seat and cap being a shave plane.
3. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fingers of the spacer are spaced below the shaving plane in the initial position of the spacer.
4. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fingers of the spacer lie in or beyond the shave plane in the plurality of working positions.
5. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the seat has a guide bar coextending with the cutting edges of the at least one and additional blades and having a plurality of fixed members which are spaced apart along the guard bar and extend upward therefrom, each of the fixed members having a respective rounded top terminating below, on or above the shave plane.

6. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fixed members provided on the seat are aligned with the fingers formed on the spacer in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal extent of the cutting edges of the at least one and seat blades.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacer has a continuous front edge from which the fingers extend frontward, at least one of the plurality of working positions wherein the front edge of the spacer lies in or beyond the shave plane corresponds to a cleaning position of the spacer.

9. (Original) The razor blade cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spacer further comprises a means for engaging that registers ~~further comprising a locking mechanism selectively locking~~ the spacer in the plurality of the working positions.